

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 02935 122206Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PRS-01 L-01 SCA-01 VO-01 PM-03 DHA-02

ORM-01 SY-02 INRE-00 SSO-00 /047 W

-----004912 122215Z /63

O R 122145Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5813

INFO COMNAVBASE GUANTANAMO BAY CUBA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 2935

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, HA

SUBJECT: HAITIANS AT GUANTANAMO BAY

1. EMBASSY INFORMED YESTERDAY MORNING BY TELEPHONE AND LATER BY TELEGRAM (REPEATED SEPARATELY) THAT 40-FOOT SAILBOAT WITH 101 HAITIANS ABOARD ARRIVED AT GUANTANAMO NAVAL BASE EVENING AUGUST 10. BOAT IS NOT SEAWORTHY AND CAPTAIN STATES ENTIRE GROUP WILLING TO BE RETURNED TO HAITI. GROUP HAD SAILED FROM PORT SALUT, HAITI AND INTENDED TO SEEK WORK IN BAHAMAS. NO REPEAT NO REQUEST MADE FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM.

2. EMBASSY PROPOSED TO GOH THAT GROUP BE RETURNED TO HAITI BY AIR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND FOREIGN MINISTER BRUTUS PROMISED FULL COOPERATION INCLUDING ASSISTANCE FROM HAITIAN RED CROSS. HAITIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS ASSURED US NO REPRISALS WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THE GROUP AND THAT THEY WOULD BE ASSISTED IN RETURNING TO THEIR HOMES.

3. AFTER TELECON WITH GUANTANAMO FIRST PLANE,
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SCHEDULED TO CARRY ABOUT 38 HAITIANS, WAS CLEARED TO LAND AT PORT-AU-PRINCE AT 1630 AUGUST 11. WHEN HAITIANS ARRIVED AT PLANE IN GUANTANAMO, HOWEVER, THEY REFUSED TO BOARD AND ADKED TO BE FLOWN TO BAHAMAS INSTEAD. NOT WANTING TO USE FORCE, BASE AUTHORITIES CANCELLED FLIGHT AND TELEPHONED EMBASSY FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

4. MORNING AUGUST 12 GUANTANAMO PLANE ARRIVED IN
PORT-AU-PRINCE TO PICK UP EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER
AND CHIEF OF HAITIAN IMMIGRATION SERVICE. GOH REQUESTED
EMBASSY'S PERMISSION TO SEND ITS OWN REPRESENTATIVE BECAUSE
OF UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF HAITIANS INVOLVED. WE OBTAINED
RENEWED ASSURANCES FROM BOTH MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AND
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT RETURNEES WOULD NOT BE
PUNISHED IN ANY WAY.
JONES

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Message Attributes

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